LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Athens, June 14, 1940.

No. 4195

Subject: Transmitting 1939 Volume of Treaties, Conventions and Agreements Concluded by Greece.

TREATY DIVISION
JUL 17 1940
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

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The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a publication just issued by the Royal Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs containing all Treaties, Conventions and Agreements concluded between Greece and foreign powers during the year 1939.

Respectfully yours,

Lincoln MacVeagh.

Lincoln MacVeagh.

Enclosure:

1. Publication.

File No. 020.

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TELEGRAM RECEIVED

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This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (Br.)

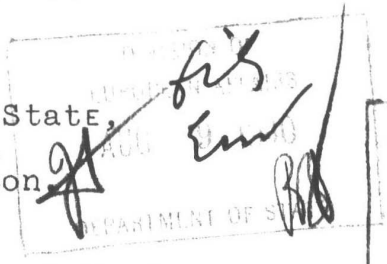
FROM Athens

Dated August 8, 1940

Rec'd 1:03 a.m, 9th

Secretary of State,

Washington.



191, August 8, 4 p.m.

In a long talk with me yesterday regarding Greek foreign policy in the light of recent European developments the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs reiterated a statement made by the Premier last Sunday to the effect that Greek neutrality remains unaltered and explained that as Greece demands nothing from anybody and nobody demands anything of her there is no necessity for any change. However, since Bulgarian claims to an Aegean exit are probably only postponed I believe he might more accurately have cited continued British control of the sea and Germany's apparent lack of interest for the present in Balkan problems south of the Danube.

Opposition to the Government's policy in this matter probably accounts for the continuance of repressive measures such as I reported in my telegram No. 174, July 19. All persons affected, chiefly ex-politicians and retired officers, belong to the traditionally pro-German Popular or Royalist Party. But no personalities of prime importance

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have as yet been involved and while admitting that German propaganda may have played a part in exciting local ambitions the Under Secretary declared the Government is not alarmed. He mentioned recent praise of Mr. Metaxas in the controlled German press to show that officially Germany is satisfied with Greece's present course.

MACVEAGH

EMB

E.A.F. to Hull

December 13, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: The Situation in Greece

Serious armed conflict is raging in Athens today between some 16,000 British and Greek Government troops and an unknown proportion of the 50,000 EAM-ELAS guerillas.

Basic causes of this dispute lie in EAM's distrust of the intentions of the British-backed Government, as regards, first, the holding of fair elections and a plebiscite on the question of the King; and, second, EAM's desire to exercise its share of power. While agreeing to a general program of disarming all irregular forces and reestablishing a regular Greek Army, EAM insisted that the Greek Mountain Brigade (4,000 men) remaining after the purge of the "mutinous" Greek forces in Egypt last spring) and Sacred Battalion (500 officers trained as commandos) be disarmed simultaneously with the ELAS guerilla forces. The Government offered instead to incorporate its units and an equal number of ELAS troops in the National Army. Fearing Government stacking of the units, the resistance groups refused and on December 1 the four EAM and two Communist Ministers resigned from the Cabinet (of twenty-three members).

A crisis arose on Sunday December 3 when an EAM protest demonstration, which had first been authorized, then disapproved by the Government, was fired on by Greek gendarmes, who killed twenty-one and wounded one hundred and fifty of the demonstrators. On Monday Greek Premier Papandreou, on advice of British Ambassador Leeper, offered his resignation and proposed that a new Government be formed by the venerable Sophoulis, President of the Liberal (Venizelist) Party. The impasse came on Tuesday, when Mr. Churchill telegraphed Leeper vetoing any governmental change and ordering the British GOC to clear Athens of all ELAS forces. Bitter fighting has continued ever since, without conclusive results. The most the British can hope to win, without large-scale reinforcements, is control of the Athens area, with EAM-ELAS remaining in power elsewhere in the country.

It seems clear that the serious turn of affairs resulted from Churchill's arbitrary veto of Papandreou's resignation, which made further political negotiation impossible. The Department has made a public statement favoring a free Greek

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choice of future Government and attempting to disassociate us from British policy. ~~However, to the displeasure of the Navy and War Departments, some American naval and air transport was pressed into service by SAC MED to carry British reinforcements to Greece.~~

Public opinion has been stirred to an unprecedented degree by the Greek crisis. In England a vote in Parliament was notable for abstentions. King George, who has aggravated the difficulties by refusing to appoint a Regency in Greece or to make any personal commitment regarding his return to Greece, has remained silent. In this country the public has strongly supported the Department's declared position, but many demands are accumulating for: 1) Strong representations to the British; 2) United States mediation; and 3) establishment in Greece of a United States-Soviet-British Commission to ensure a fair deal.

In the Department's opinion, the situation would be considerably eased if King George would consent to the establishment of a Regency in Greece and make a statement clarifying his intention not to return to Greece unless recalled by a popular plebiscite.

E. R. Stettinius, Jr.

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